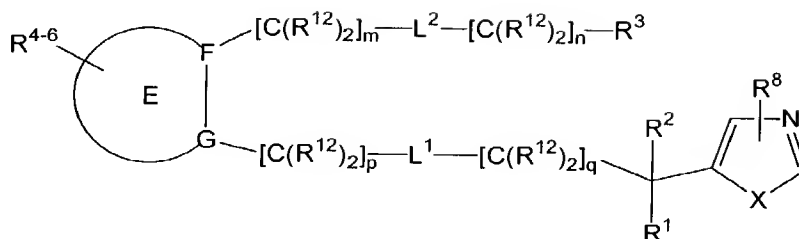


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I),

or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

E is a five-, six-, or seven-membered aromatic or non-aromatic carbocyclic ring wherein from zero to three carbon atoms are replaced by nitrogen;

F and G are independently selected from the group consisting of C and N; with the proviso that when one of F and G is N, the other is C;

L¹ and L² are each independently selected from the group consisting of a bond, C₂ alkenylene, C₂ alkynylene, O, NR⁹, C(O), S, S(O), SO₂, SO₂NR⁹, NR⁹SO₂, C(O)NR⁹, NR⁹C(O), and CO₂;

X is selected from the group consisting of S and NR⁷;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of aryl, arylalkyl, heterocycle, and (heterocycle)alkyl;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl, hydroxy, and hydroxyalkyl;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of aryl, heterocycle, and cycloalkyl;

R⁴⁻⁶ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, NR⁹C(O), C(O)NR⁹, alkanoyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkynyl, amido, amino, aminoalkyl, aminosulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, aryloxy, arylsulfonyl, azido, carboxy, cyano, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, halo, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, nitro, nitroalkyl, oxo, and thio(oxo);

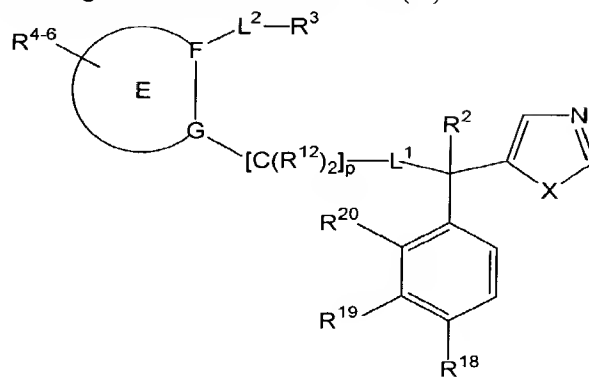
R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl, and trialkylsilyl;

R⁹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, amidoalkyl, aminoalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, carboxyalkyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, and a nitrogen protecting group;

each R¹² is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, amino, halo, and hydroxy;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;
 n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;
 p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and
 q is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 of formula (II)



(II),

or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

E, F, G, L¹, L², X, R², R³, R⁴-⁶, R¹², and p are as defined in Claim 1 and
 R¹⁸, R¹⁹, and R²⁰ are each independently selected from the group consisting of
 hydrogen, cyano, and halo.

3. A compound according to Claim 2 wherein

L¹ is selected from the group consisting of O and C₂ alkynylene;

L² is selected from the group consisting of a bond, NR⁹SO₂, and C(O)NR⁹;

wherein each group is drawn with its left end attached to F and its right end attached to R³;

X is NR⁷;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and hydroxy;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of aryl and heterocycle;

R¹² is hydrogen; and

p is 0 or 1.

4. A compound according to Claim 3 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of
 pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, 1,4-dihydropyridinyl, and 1,2-dihydropyridinyl.

5. A compound according to Claim 4 wherein E is pyridinyl.

6. A compound according to Claim 5 wherein
 R¹⁸ is cyano; and

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are hydrogen.

7. A compound according to Claim 6 selected from the group consisting of
4-(((6-chloro-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-pyridinyl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-
yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((2-(3-chlorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-
5 yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((4-(3-chlorophenyl)-6-fluoro-3-pyridinyl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-
yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((4-(3-chlorophenyl)-6-methoxy-3-pyridinyl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-
yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
10 4-(3-chlorophenyl)-5-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-2-
pyridinecarbonitrile;
5-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-6-(2,2-difluoro-1,3-
benzodioxol-5-yl)pyridine-2-carbonitrile; and
5-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-6-(3,5-
15 difluorophenyl)pyridine-2-carbonitrile.

8. A compound according to Claim 4 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of
1,4-dihydropyridinyl and 1,2-dihydropyridinyl.

9. A compound according to Claim 8 wherein
R¹⁸ is cyano; and
R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are hydrogen.

10. A compound according to Claim 9 selected from the group consisting of
4-(3-chlorophenyl)-N-((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)-1-methyl-6-
oxo-1,6-dihydro-3-pyridinecarboxamide;
1-(3-chlorophenyl)-6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-4-
5 oxo-1,4-dihydro-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;
4-(((4-(3-chlorophenyl)-6-oxo-1,6-dihydro-3-pyridinyl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-
yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((4-(3-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-6-oxo-1,6-dihydro-3-pyridinyl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-
imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
10 5-(3-chlorophenyl)-6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-1-
methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;

6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-5-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;

- 15 6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-5-(3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-1,2-dihydro-3-pyridinecarbonitrile; and
6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-5-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-3-pyridinecarbonitrile.

11. A compound according to Claim 8 wherein
R¹⁸ is halo; and
R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are hydrogen.

12. A compound according to Claim 11 which is
5-(3-chlorophenyl)-6-(((4-chlorophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-3-pyridinecarbonitrile.

13. A compound according to Claim 8 wherein
R¹⁸ is cyano;
R¹⁹ is hydrogen; and
R²⁰ is halo.

14. A compound according to Claim 13 which is
5-(3-chlorophenyl)-6-(((4-cyano-2-fluorophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-3-pyridinecarbonitrile.

15. A compound according to Claim 8 wherein
R¹⁸ is cyano;
R¹⁹ is halo; and
R²⁰ is hydrogen.

16. A compound according to Claim 15 selected from the group consisting of
5-(3-chlorophenyl)-6-(((4-cyano-3-fluorophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-3-pyridinecarbonitrile; and
6-(((3-chloro-4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-5-(3-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-3-pyridinecarbonitrile.

17. A compound according to Claim 3 wherein E is phenyl.

18. A compound according to Claim 17 wherein one of R^{4-6} is cyano.

19. A compound according to Claim 18 wherein
 R^{18} is cyano; and
 R^{19} and R^{20} are hydrogen.

20. A compound according to Claim 19 selected from the group consisting of
 6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-3'-methoxy(1,1'-
 biphenyl)-3-carbonitrile;
 6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-3'-ethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-
 3-carbonitrile;
 3-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-4-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-
 yl)methoxy)methyl)benzonitrile;
 3'-chloro-6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-
 3-carbonitrile;
 N-(5-cyano-2-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)phenyl)-2-
 thiophenesulfonamide;
 N-(5-cyano-2-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)phenyl)-4-
 methylbenzenesulfonamide;
 5-cyano-2-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-N-(4-
 methylpyridin-2-yl)benzamide;
 N-(3-chlorophenyl)-5-cyano-2-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-
 yl)methoxy)methyl)benzamide;
 4-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-3-(6-oxo-1-propyl-1,6-
 dihydropyridin-3-yl)benzonitrile; and
 4-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-3-(6-propoxypyridin-3-
 yl)benzonitrile.

21. A compound according to Claim 17 wherein one of R^{4-6} is halo.

22. A compound according to Claim 21 wherein R^3 is heterocycle.

23. A compound according to Claim 22 wherein
 R^{18} is cyano; and
 R^{19} and R^{20} are hydrogen.

24. A compound according to Claim 23 selected from the group consisting of

4-(((2-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-4-chlorobenzyl)oxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile; and 4-(((4-chloro-2-(5-formyl-2-thienyl)benzyl)oxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile.

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25. A compound according to Claim 21 wherein R^3 is aryl.

26. A compound according to Claim 25 wherein the aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with one substituent selected from the group consisting of alkanoyl, alkoxy, alkyl, amino, cyano, formyl, halo, and haloalkyl.

27. A compound according to Claim 26 wherein
 R^{18} is cyano; and
 R^{19} and R^{20} are hydrogen.

28. A compound according to Claim 27 selected from the group consisting of
4-(((2',5-dichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-2'-methyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-2'-methoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((3',5-dichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-methyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-(trifluoromethyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-methoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-fluoro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((4',5-dichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((4-chloro-2-(1-naphthyl)benzyl)oxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((3'-amino-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

3'-chloro-6'-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-3-carbonitrile;

25 4-(((2'-acetyl-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((4'-acetyl-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

30 4-(((4'-tert-butyl-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-ethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

N-(5'-chloro-2'-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-3-yl)acetamide;

35 4-(((5-chloro-4'-(trifluoromethyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-formyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile; and

40 4-(3-(3',5-dichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)-1-hydroxy-1-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)-2-propynyl)benzonitrile.

29. A compound according to Claim 25 wherein the aryl is substituted with two or three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkyl, and halo.

30. A compound according to Claim 29 wherein
 R^{18} is cyano; and
 R^{19} and R^{20} are hydrogen.

31. A compound according to Claim 30 selected from the group consisting of
4-(((5-chloro-3',4'-dimethyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

5 4-(((5-chloro-2',5'-dimethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3',4'-dimethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

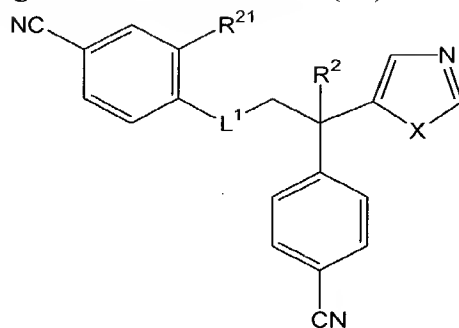
4-(((5-chloro-3',4',5'-trimethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

10 4-((1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)((2',3',5-trichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-((1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)((3',5,5'-trichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)methyl)benzonitrile; and

15 4-((1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)((3',4',5-trichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)methyl)benzonitrile.

32. A compound according to Claim 1 of formula (III)



(III),

or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

5 L¹, X, and R² are as defined in Claim 1; and

R²¹ is selected from the group consisting of aryl and heterocycle.

33. A compound according to Claim 32 wherein

L¹ is selected from the group consisting of NR⁹ and O;

X is selected from the group consisting of NR⁷ and S; and

R² is selected from the group consisting of amino, halo and hydroxy.

34. A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

L¹ is NR⁹; and

X is NR⁷.

35. A compound according to Claim 34 selected from the group consisting of

6-((2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethyl)(methylamino)-3'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-((2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethyl)(methylamino)-3'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile; and

6-((2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethyl)(methylamino)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

36. A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

L¹ is O; and

X is S.

37. A compound according to Claim 36 which is

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1,3-thiazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

38. A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

L¹ is O;

X is NR⁷;

R² is hydroxy; and

R²¹ is aryl.

39. A compound according to Claim 38 selected from the group consisting of

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3',4'-difluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3'-chloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-fluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3',5'-difluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3',4'-dichloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3',5'-dichloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-fluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3'-chloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3-(1-naphthyl)benzonitrile; and

(S)-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

40. A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

L^1 is O;

X is NR^7 ;

R^2 is hydroxy; and

R^{21} is heterocycle.

41. A compound according to Claim 40 selected from the group consisting of

3-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)benzonitrile;

4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3-quinolin-8-ylbenzonitrile; and

4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3-(2,2-difluoro-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)benzonitrile.

42. A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

L^1 is O;

X is NR^7 ;

R^2 is halo; and

R^{21} is aryl.

43. A compound according to Claim 42 selected from the group consisting of

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3',4'-difluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3'-chloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-fluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3',5'-difluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3',4'-dichloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3',5'-dichloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-fluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile; and

20 3'-chloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

44. A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

L^1 is O;

X is NR^7 ;

R^2 is halo; and

5 R^{21} is heterocycle.

45. A compound according to Claim 44 selected from the group consisting of

3-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)benzonitrile;

4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3-quinolin-8-ylbenzonitrile; and

5 4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3-(2,2-difluoro-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)benzonitrile.

46. A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

L^1 is O;

X is NR^7 ;

R^2 is amino; and

5 R^{21} is aryl.

47. A compound according to Claim 46 which is

6-(2-amino-2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

48. A compound which is

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

49. A compound which is

6-((2S)-2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-

(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

50. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a therapeutically acceptable carrier.

51. A method for inhibiting farnesyltransferase in a patient in recognized need of such treatment comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically acceptable amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof.

52. A method for treating cancer in a patient in recognized need of such treatment comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically acceptable amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof.